

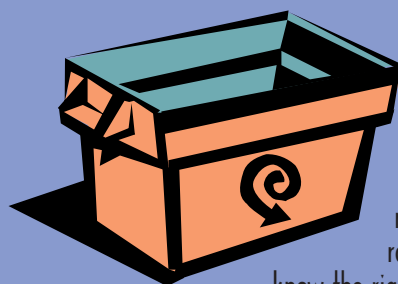


In 1989 California launched an ambitious campaign to cut its trash in half by the year 2000. Each city and county developed plans and initiated recycling programs to reach goals. And Californians like you have come through in a big way. Today, statewide, we reuse and recycle an estimated 32 percent of our solid waste. In fact, California recycles 17 million tons a year—more than twice as much as the next two states combined!

But to get to 50 percent, the California Integrated Waste Management Board, the California Department of Conservation, and your local officials are asking you to take some or all of these easy steps to help cut your trash in half.

For years, you have been doing a great job recycling bottles, cans, and newspapers, including nearly 10 billion beverage containers last year alone! But have you tried grasscycling or composting? Or have you thought about buying products made from these old cans, soda bottles, and newspapers?

Best of all, these tips are not only good, they're good for you! In the short run, recycling and reuse can save you money, and in the long run, cutting trash makes your landfill last longer, saving you tax dollars.



1. Recycle!

Your city or county has developed some great programs to make it easy for you to recycle. To find out more about your local programs, call the Waste Board at 1-800-553-2962 for the telephone number and name of your community recycling coordinator. Make sure you know the right way to recycle in your community.

2. Recycle Carbonated Beverage Containers



The increasing popularity of 20-oz plastic bottles is contributing to a noticeable drop in the plastic beverage container recycling rate. These containers are recyclable, so whether you are on the road for business, vacation, or a weekend outing, find a recycling bin to deposit your empty beverage containers into. And remember that most roadside rest stops now have beverage container recycling bins. Thanks California, keep recycling!

For the nearest beverage container recycling center location, call 1-800-RECYCLE. To learn more about beverage container recycling, visit the Department of Conservation's Web site, www.consrv.ca.gov.

3. Grasscycle

A great way to cut your trash and save you time is to grasscycle—mow without a bag and leave your grass clippings on the lawn to provide mulch and nutrients, save water, and save time.

Your existing mower probably came with a kit to make it a mulching mower. These machines cut and recut grass into tiny particles, which drop down onto the soil. But remember—don't mow wet grass. It will clump and pile.

4. Compost in Your Backyard

If mowing without a bag isn't your bag, try composting. Yard waste and some food scraps decompose into outstanding free topsoil, and composting can reduce your trash by up to 25 percent—perhaps more.

Call the Waste Board at 1-800-553-2962 for the telephone number of your local recycling coordinator to determine if there is a compost workshop near you.



5. Xeriscape

In arid climates such as most of California, xeriscaping—landscaping with plants that don't need much water—may help reduce your costs. In addition, drought-tolerant plants tend to be slower growing and require less maintenance.

Mowing, watering, and fertilizing chores take less time and money, and yard waste is minimized. And the next time there's a drought, you don't have to worry!

6. Reduce Household Waste

There are a lot of little things you can do around the house to cut your trash in half. Find a home for unneeded items. Give them to charity or have a yard sale.

Buy in bulk and, like your Mom said, eat your leftovers. Use cloth bags at the grocery store instead of paper or plastic. At home, use reusable containers to store leftovers and other items.

Avoid overpackaged products—the little toy in the box, inside the bigger box, encased in foam blocks, and sealed in another box. It costs you money to throw away this packaging (and more money to buy it in the first place!)

7. Join the Paperless Society

Use e-mail. Send electronic greetings for special events and you can save money and paper. If you do not need to make a paper copy, don't. And get off the junk mail lists. Call the Waste Board to find out how.

Use cloth napkins and towels instead of paper napkins and paper towels to save natural resources, reduce waste, and save money!





Douglas P. Wheeler
Secretary for the Resources Agency



Peter W. Rooney
Secretary for Environmental Protection

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8. Good Recycling Starts at Home

Recycled materials are processed and used to make new products. One big problem is that paper, plastic, and other commodities are easily contaminated. Be careful to sort your materials appropriately, or the whole load may wind up in the landfill instead of at a recycling manufacturer.

What can you do? Flatten your cardboard boxes for curbside pickup. Don't put plastic bags inside paper bags, and don't leave paper receipts inside plastic bags. Make sure you take those sticky notes off of white paper.

Remove the caps before you recycle milk jugs. And please—wash out recyclables so they don't attract bugs, mold, and mice.

9. Do No Harm

It is illegal to put used oil and hazardous household products such as pesticides, paints, or gasoline into your family trash. Dumping them on the ground or into the storm drain is illegal and harms the environment. But you should not store used oil or unneeded hazardous products around your house or garage.

What can you do? Call 1-800-CLEAN-UP to find out where you can recycle or properly dispose of these unneeded items. Or visit the Waste Board's Web site at www.ciwmb.ca.gov to find your nearest used oil recycling center.

10. Use Re-Refined Oil

The State requires re-refined oil in its vehicles, including California Highway Patrol cars. High-performance race cars use re-refined oil and win. You can, too!

Used oil can be re-refined into top-quality motor oil. Unfortunately, not every store carries re-refined oil. If your dealer does not stock re-refined, ask for it!

11. Buy Recycled

Earth's resources are too precious to waste. For recycling to succeed we all need to check the labels and to buy products made with recycled content. Everything from clothes to carpeting, cans to comic books are made from recycled materials.

You are doing your part when you help close the recycling loop.



What's Left in Your Trash Can?

Now, how have you done? On trash day, is your can less than half full? If not, please call the Waste Board at 1-800-553-2962 to request more information on all of the topics covered here. You can also check the Waste Board's Web site at www.ciwmb.ca.gov to learn more.

California's Family Trash Can

California's average family trash includes 38 percent paper and paperboard; 14 percent yard trimmings; and between 6 and 10 percent each for glass, metal, plastic, wood, and food scraps.

The Integrated Waste Management Board (IWMB) does not discriminate on the basis of disability in access to its programs. IWMB publications are available in accessible formats upon request by calling the Public Affairs Office at (916) 255-2296. Persons with hearing impairments can reach the IWMB through the California Relay Service, 1-800-735-2929.

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